



Connecticut Athletic Trainer's Association • 35 E. Main Street, Suite 233 • Avon, CT 06001

To: Public Health Committee

From: Thomas McCarthy, Chair Licensure Committee
Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association

Re: Raised Bill #7112, An Act Establishing A Temporary Permit To Practice Athletic Training

Date: March 5, 2007

Good afternoon Representative Sayers, Senator Handley and members of the public health committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of Raised Bill # 7112 An Act Establishing A Temporary Permit to Practice Athletic Training

My name is Thomas McCarthy I am an assistant athletic trainer at Central Connecticut State University. Today I am here representing the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for recognizing the need for implementing the licensing of athletic trainers in the state. As a practicing athletic trainer it is comforting to know that the athlete is now protected from unqualified health care professionals.

It has come to our attention that the bill to license athletic trainers did not have a temporary permit section. This was an oversight on our part during the writing of the legislation. Most other allied health professions have temporary permit language in there state statute. This would allow athletic trainers who have completed their course work in athletic training to work in the state until they have taken there certification test and are awaiting the results. We are asking that our statue be brought to the same level.

Supervision:

We are concerned, however, that the supervision language as it currently exists will not allow the athletic trainer to perform the duties that are expected of them in their job. We have no objection to the athletic trainer being supervised by a licensed athletic trainer during the temporary permit period. However, requiring the supervisor to be on the premises is not practical in the field of athletic training. The athletic trainer is already being supervised under the direction of a health care provider and must have standing orders to practice.



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For example: an athletic trainer who has a temporary permit and has been hired to travel with an athletic team would not be allowed to travel on their own. This scenario would prevent new graduates and other athletic trainers from gainful employment. This would affect approximately 100 athletic trainers who are looking for employment in the state.

As such, we would encourage the deletion of the language: *Such practice shall be limited to those settings where the licensed supervisor is physically present on the premises and is immediately available to render assistance and supervision, as needed, to the permittee.*

Effective Date

We fully support the one hundred twenty calendar days for the temporary permit period. We would encourage the Committee to change the language in line 26-29 to read: *"Such temporary permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty calendar days after the date of application and shall not be renewable"*. This is common language in all other allied health statutes that require a temporary permit.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present this testimony today. I look forward to working with the Committee throughout the session.